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Montana and the Sky

MDT Department of Transportation – Aeronautics Division Vol. 46 No. 6 June 1995

Yellowstone Airport Labor Day Family Fly-in

September 2–4, 1995
West Yellowstone, MT

The Labor Day Fly-in is scheduled for September 2 through September 4, 1995. There will be a density altitude clinic and other pilot safety seminars as part of this years exciting program.

A schedule of activities is listed below. We hope to see you there!

Saturday Afternoon–September 2

Aircraft Static Display - Prizes
Density Altitude Clinic - By Aeronautics Division Personnel
Tour the Interagency fire control center, smokejumper base, located at the airport—if everyone isn't out fighting fires.

Saturday Evening–September 2

Special Mexican dinner by Doris' Cantina at the airport. Beer, wine and BBQ ribs are also available. BBQ dinners include corn on the cob, baked beans, and potato salad.

Sunday–September 3

Visit Yellowstone National Park, the new Imax Theater and Grizzly Bear Discovery Center in West Yellowstone (or just loaf!) Dinner is regular menu at Doris' Cantina (authentic Mexican cuisine).

Monday–September 4

Regular Menu at Doris' Cantina.

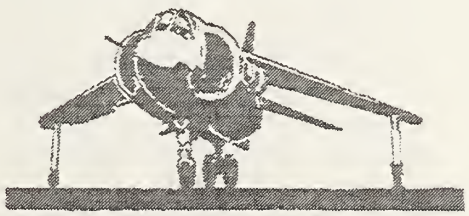
Airport Facilities

Free pilot campground featuring running water, fireplaces, picnic tables and a hot shower facility. Yellowstone Aviation 646-7359, services and fuel available. Skywest Airlines 646-7351, service to Cody, Jackson and Salt Lake City. Car rentals on field, Avis 646-7635, Budget 646-7735. Transportation available to motels. Doris' Cantina and Lounge 646-9533. Jeff Heaney, Airport Manager, Yellowstone Airport (406) 646-7631, Aeronautics Division, Helena (406) 444-2605.

Motels at West Yellowstone

Branding Iron Motel & RV Park 646-9411
Starlite Motel 646-7656
Madison Hotel 646-7745
Stage Coach Inn 646-7381
Best Western Executive Inn 646-7681
Yellowstone Conference Hotel 646-7365

For other motel accomodations call 406-646-9488.



Soar High at RMC Aero Camp

Aerospace Camp

June 19-23 (Grades 1-3)
June 26-30 (Grades 4-6)

Join Rocky Mountain College's aviation department for a hands-on camp where you will build rockets, kites and model airplanes. Campers discover how things fly, weather information, how to read maps, use tools and measuring devices and more.

Camp will be held from 9am–12noon daily at the Bair Science Center. Fee of $85 includes supplies.

Aviation Flight Camp

July 10-14 (Grades 6-11)

Students will fly three times with flight instructors in Cessna training aircraft provided by Lynch Flying Service, experience two training sessions in Rocky's $100,000 flight simulator together with classroom instruction.

Camp will be held from 8:30 am - 4 pm daily at Rocky Hall 108. Fee of $400 (includes lunches, flights, simulator time and supplies); $495 (includes flights, simulator time, supplies, evening supervision, lodging, and all meals from lunch Monday–lunch on Friday). Enrollment is limited.

For more information on the camps or to register, call 657-1040 or 1-800-877-6259, ext. 1040.

Administrator's Column

Small Airports May Suffer New Regulation: The Administration has had a bill introduced by Senator Wendell Ford (KY) to require the small airports being served by commuter airlines to meet the certification requirements of Part 139. Currently, only airports being served by commuter airlines with aircraft larger than 30 passengers require such certification. The new bill (S.682) will affect airports being served with aircraft over 9 passengers -OR- any airport serving UNSCHEDULED passenger operations with an airline aircraft over 30 passengers. The small airports being served under the Essential Air Service program such as the eight in Montana will be required to meet the new requirements if this bill passes. This bill is "reinventing the wheel" as it was not so many years ago that a similar certification requirement was dropped because it was proven unnecessary and not cost effective after millions of dollars were spent on Crash Fire Rescue buildings, fire trucks, and training by both the FAA and the small communities. Now we are going to start all over again if this bill passes.

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Automated Surface Observing Systems: On Friday, June 2, 1995, Jim Greil represented the Aeronautics Division at a meeting after the commissioning of the new National Weather Service (NWS) facilities at Great Falls. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ASOS with the NWS Deputy Director. ASOS system users in attendance included representatives from the Montana Pilots Association, commercial operators, and the Aeronautics Division. The position of these users of ASOS was clearly conveyed to the NWS Deputy Director—the system is only an improvement in those locations where no previous weather reporting existed and that ASOS has definitely degraded services where previous human weather reporting services existed. Also, ASOS does not provide vital weather information such as blowing dust, blowing snow, smoke, haze, fog, hail, rain, CB's approaching airport, lightning, mountains obscured, etc. I have recently received questionnaires from the NWS regarding the newly commissioned ASOS services at some Montana airports and I have filled out and returned the forms stating dissatisfaction with ASOS for the reasons stated above. Will any of this do any good? NO! Even though the AWAS and ASOS fail to meet the FAA and NWS promises of better services they have simply spent too much money on these systems and will continue to shove them down our throats whether we like it or not.

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Independent FAA Gains Support: The ranking Democrat on the House aviation subcommittee Representative James Oberstar of Minnesota has pledged to cosponsor the FAA reform bill (HR 1392) introduced by Representative Jim Lightfoot of Iowa. Rep. Oberstar said that he strongly supports this bill and noted that 10 of the 11 former living FAA administrators support an independent FAA and that all 11 oppose a government corporation to take over the air traffic control system. If you feel strongly about getting the FAA out from under the U.S. Department of Transportation you should call Representative Williams at 1-800-332-6177, Senator Burns at 1-800-344-1513 and Senator Baucus at 1-800-332-6106 to inform them of your feelings.

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President Pressures Leadership For Support: President Clinton has appealed to both House Speaker Newt Ginrich of Georgia and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas to support his attempt to create a government corporation similar to the U.S. Postal Service to run the Air Traffic Control system. Thus far there has been very little support in Congress for President Clinton's and Transportation Secretary Federico Pena's plan. Those opposing the plan say everything Clinton/Pena tout about curing the current ATC problems can more easily and better be accomplished through returning the FAA to an independent agency and streamlining procurement and personnel problems.

continued on page 7

Montana and the Sky
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Marc Racicot, Governor
Marv Dye, Director

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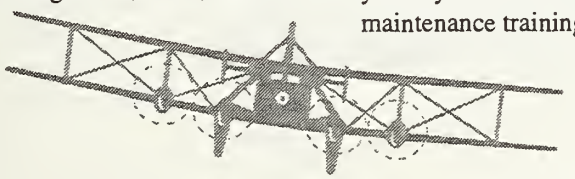
Nationwide NEXWOS Give-Away

Montana Aeronautics is collaborating with National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) to give away one NEXWOS unit to an airport. The NEXWOS is a state-of-the-art weather data collection device equivalent to an AWOS III. The unit has a retail price of approximately $55,000 and is designed and manufactured by AAI/SMI Systems Management.

This give-away is organized by NASAO to accept one airport candidate from each of the 52 NASAO members. Accordingly, we will draw, on August 14, 1995, one candidate for the state of Montana from all submissions to our office. The lucky Montana airport will then be submitted to NASAO for their drawing. The winning airport will be selected by random drawing at NASAO's home office on August 15, 1995.

The NEXWOS unit will be shipped at no cost to the winning airport. If there is a catch to the winning, it is that the selected airport must commit to installation and site preparation estimated at $5,000 to $15,000, as well as yearly maintenance at $3,000 per year by contract or $3,000 one-time for maintenance training.



GA Databook Available

The most recent U.S. general aviation statistics are now available from the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA). The DATABOOK serves as the top source of information on the entire U.S. general aviation industry.

The DATABOOK contains statistics on domestic general aviation shipments, composition of the aircraft fleet, exports and aviation safety trends. Information on the number of hours flown by general aviation aircraft, categorized by type and primary use, as well as data on the age of the fleet are contained in the publications. In addition, statistics on the U.S. pilot population and airports are listed.

GAMA has added new charts on U.S. registered amateur built aircraft, by type, and number of women pilots.

The GAMA DATABOOK is available for $10.00 in cash, check or money order. Write to GAMA, 1400 K Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20005-2485.

Seaplane Pilot News

It's been suggested we let more pilots know about our Montana Seaplane Pilots Association. We are in our third year after becoming an organization. Some of our goals are:

- we are nonprofit
- try to promote seaplane activities
- provide social occasions
- advise and assist the International Seaplane Association
- work to improve, protect and increase seaplane related activities
- educate membership in areas related to seaplane safety, the importance of noise abatement, and other areas towards a positive public perception of seaplanes.

Seaplane lessons are available in Western Montana from Mike Strand in Kalispell, Paul Otis in Polson, Larry Baer, Holman Aviation in Kalispell.

What's going on this summer? On August 11-12-13, the Second Annual Splash In at Stillwater Lake, 12 miles west of Whitefish. Barbecue on Saturday the 12th. Come by floats, car, bicycle or whatever. Last year was fantastic. Looking forward to this year. For more information and RVSP contact Bill & Connie Montgomery (206) 789-4970 Fax (206) 784-0878.

For anyone interested in joining the MSPA mail $15/year to Grace Poloson, 255 Flathead View Dr., Polson, Mt 59860 or phone Martin Hale, President at (406) 862-4048.

Calendar

June 10—International Young Eagles Day.
June 17–18—Bass Father's Day Fly-in, Beacon Star.
June 19–23—Aviation Camp, Rocky Mountain College, Grades 1-3. Call 657-1040 or 800-877-6259.
June 19–30—Aviation Education Teacher Workshop, University of Montana, Missoula.
June 19–30—Aerospace Camp, University of Montana, Missoula.
June 22–25—Women's Air Race Classic.
June 24—Plains Fly-in and Air Show, contact Randy Garrison at 826-3605.
June 24—Colstrip Breakfast Fly-in, contact Kevin Petersen 748-3979.
June 26–30—Aviation Camp, Rocky Mountain College, Grades 4-6. Call 657-1040 or 800-877-6259.
July 5–8—Ercoupe Annual Convention, Kalispell, MT.
July 5–9—EAA Northwest Fly-in, Arlington, WA.
July 8–9—Big Sky Alive '95 Air Show, Missoula.
July 8–9—Saskatchewan Air Show, Moose Jaw.
July 9–15—27th Annual International Cessna Association Convention. Kalispell, MT. Ken Morrow 208-466-1793 or Terry Westphal 406-257-4004.
July 10–14—Aviation Camp, Rocky Mountain College, Grades 6-11. Call 657-1040 or 800-877-6259.
July 14–16—Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.
July 20–23—Annual Family Fly-in and Flight Safety Expo, Helena.
July 27–August 2—43rd Annual EAA Fly-in Convention, Oshkosh, WI.
August 3–6—MAAA Fly-in, Three Forks.
August 19–20—Air Show, Lethbridge Airport, Alberta.
August 20—Air Show, Gallatin Field, Belgrade.
September 2–4—Annual Labor Day Fly-in, West Yellowstone.
September 2–4—Miles City Great American Cattle Drive Fly-in.
September 9—EAA Chapter 57 Fly-in, Laurel. Contact Bob Kimpton 259-7010.
September 15–17—MPA Fall Fly-in, Beacon Star.
September 15–17—Washington Pilots Association State Convention, Spokane.

Aviation Students Honored

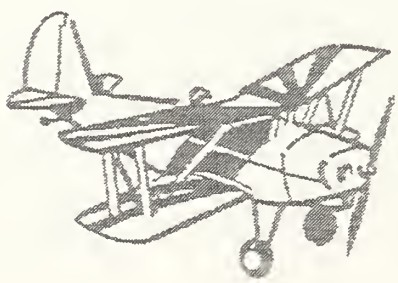
Mike Ferguson was the guest of honor and speaker for the annual Rocky Mountain College Aviation Banquet. He discussed the opportunities for future job opportunities in the aviation industry and then concluded with a travel log of his recent flight to Russia.

The banquet recognized student achievements for scholarship and flight training

Mike Ferguson congratulates Darrin Pluhar, Aviation Club President, on his Outstanding Senior Award.

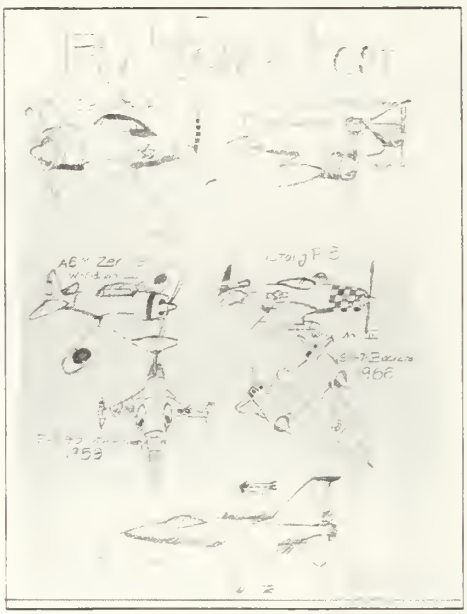
during the past year. Fifteen aviation students have been on the college's honor role during the last year and they have earned over 40 FAA certificates and ratings. The Outstanding Senior award went to Darrin Pluhar of Miles City and the Outstanding Freshman award went to Chad Hansen of Highwood. Ben Slinkard of Glen Carbon, IL, received the Hamwey Scholarship, and Brad Koch of Reno, NV, was selected for an internship with Big Sky Airlines. Six seniors who will graduate with Bachelor of Science degrees in aviation were recognized.

Assistant Professor D.K. Miller was also honored on his retirement after many years in aviation beginning in World War II and extending through military jet fighters and airline jet transports. He has been a member of the RMC faculty for the last six years.



Aviation Awareness

Category III—Grades 9–12
1st Place–Jackson Leddy, Kalispell



Category II—Grades 5–8
1st Place - Craig Davey, Kalispell

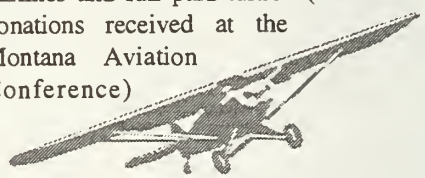
Category I—Grades 1–4
1st Place - Brittny Kallevig, Sidney

By: Jeanne Lesnik
Safety & Education Bureau

Over 130 entries were received from across Montana for the May 8 deadline. The contest was judged by Montana Aeronautics Division staff and Montana pilots who stopped into the Division offices during the weeks of May 9–19. Everyone who voted took their job very seriously, and we have some proud winners.

The first place winners Jackson Leddy, Craig Davey and Brittny Kallevig were treated to a round-trip flight from their hometown to Helena with their parents. Trophies, plaques and certificates of achievement were presented by Lt. Governor Dennis Rehberg.

Jackson Leddy received a round-trip ticket provided compliments of Northwest Airlines and full paid tuition (from donations received at the Montana Aviation Conference)



to the 1995 Experimental Aircraft Association Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The academy is being held in conjunction with the 43rd Annual EAA Fly-in Convention at Oshkosh.

Thank you Aviation Art Contest Participants. All entrants receive a ribbon and Montana State Aeronautics Division pin.

A big thanks to Northwest Airlines and in particular Lisa Perry and Gordon Brandes of Northwest's Billings office, who so generously donate a ticket each year and provide this wonderful opportunity for a Montana student.

The following is a survey that is being jointly conducted by the Montana Aeronautics Division and Brenda Spivey, who is currently finishing her masters degree in Aeronautical Science - Management and Operations at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. The information that you provide will be statistically analyzed and computed to draw specific conclusions regarding the use of the Montana Visual Airway beacon system. These results will be used as a supporting statement in Brenda's graduate thesis and will also be available to the public through the Montana Aeronautics Division. Your participation is appreciated and encouraged in order to make the survey as comprehensive as possible.

IF YOU ARE AN INSTRUMENT RATED PILOT - ANSWER QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 ONLY.
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN INSTRUMENT RATING - ANSWER QUESTIONS 3 AND 4 ONLY.

1. YOU ARE AN INSTRUMENT RATED PILOT AND QUALIFIED TO NAVIGATE ENTIRELY BY THE USE OF COCKPIT INSTRUMENTS - DO YOU OR HAVE YOU EVER USED THE VISUAL AIRWAY BEACON SYSTEM WITHIN MONTANA?

YES NO

2. ALTHOUGH YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO PILOT AN AIRCRAFT BY THE SOLE USE OF THE INTERNAL COCKPIT INSTRUMENTS, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE MONTANA VISUAL AIRWAY BEACON SYSTEM IS OF ANY BENEFIT TO ANY PILOT, REGARDLESS OF RATING?

YES NO

3. DO YOU USE THE MONTANA VISUAL AIRWAY BEACON SYSTEM FOR VISUAL REFERENCE OR NAVIGATION WHEN FLYING-DAY OR NIGHT?

YES NO

4. ALTHOUGH YOU ARE NOT AN INSTRUMENT RATED PILOT, THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE YOU FROM BEING QUALIFIED TO FLY AT NIGHT OR DURING SOMEWHAT MARGINAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. DO YOU FEEL THAT THE MONTANA VISUAL AIRWAY BEACON SYSTEM IS A BENEFIT TO ANY PILOT-REGARDLESS OF RATING-DURING THESE CONDITIONS?

YES NO

Do you have any comments on the beacon system, positive or negative, that you would like to aire or any interesting story or flying experience regarding the beacons that you would like to share?

_____
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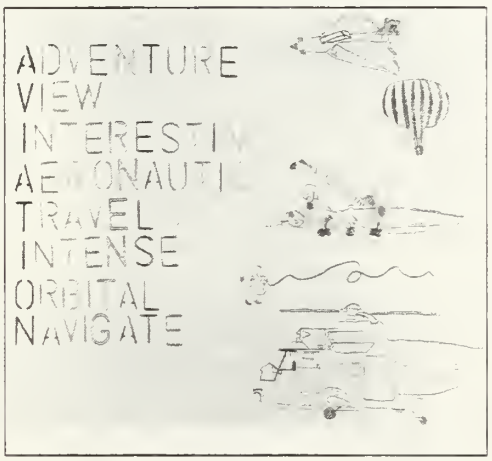
MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION
P.O. Box 5178
Helena, MT 59604

Art Contest

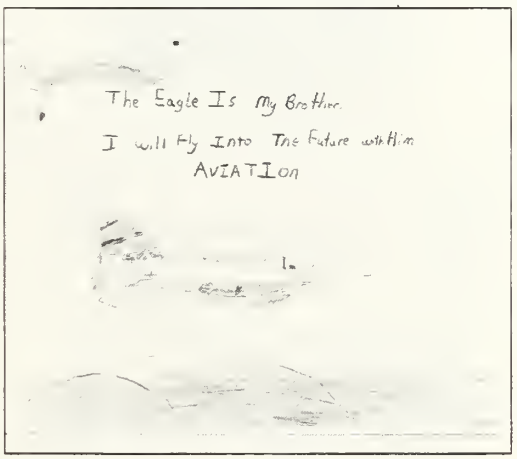
Jackson Leddy receives congratulations from his parents, and Gordon Brandes of Northwest Airlines, far left, and Lt. Governor Dennis Rehberg, far right.

All first place winners, together with their parents and Gordon Brandes, of Northwest Airlines are pictured on the Capitol steps following the awards ceremony conducted by Lt. Governor Dennis Rehberg.

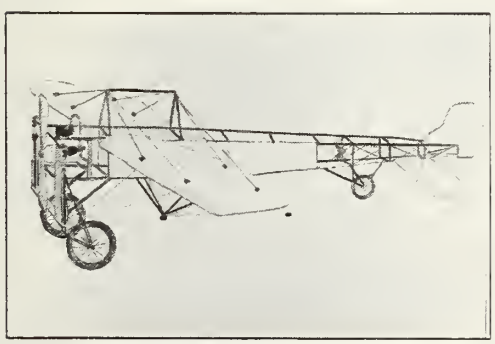
Category III–2nd Place— Chris Loraas, Hot Springs



Category II–2nd Place— Adam Hewitt, Great Falls



Category I–2nd Place—Chad Davis, Laurel



Category III–3rd Place— Jennifer Batson, Bozeman

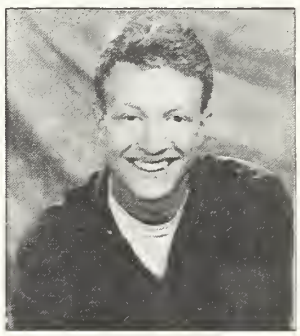
Category II–3rd Place — K. Auston Sutton, Jr., Joplin

Category I–3rd Place—Riley Brelje, Swan Lake

Flight Scholarships Awarded

The Montana Aeronautics Division recently awarded two flight scholarships to aviation science students of Jerry Hok and Chuck Manning at Flathead High School, Kalispell. These scholarships are for $500 each and will be used to help defray the cost of flight instruction at a Montana FBO of the student's choice.

This year's winners are: Dennis Bain and Hal Yeager. Meet Dennis:



Dennis Bain

I am a helicopter power plant mechanic with the Army National Guard. My ultimate ambition is to fly helicopters, either for a program similar to ALERT, or as a test pilot for Hughes or Bell.

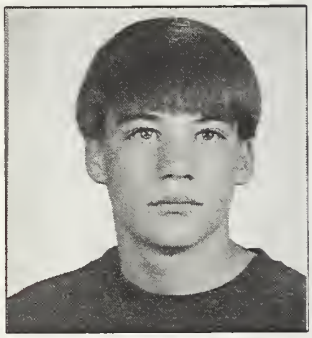
I am planning on attending FVCC this fall to work on my engineering degree, specializing in aeronautical or aerospace. I will do my first two years locally, and finish up at either the University of North Dakota, or Embry-Riddle in Arizona. I have always been fascinated with flight. My bedroom is cluttered with pictures, models, and drawings of numerous aircraft. My uncle used to work for NASA, and he always sent me posters and literature about the various projects that they were working on. Being an astronaut was an early dream of mine, and still is. I may end up applying for that, too.

I joined the Guard to help pay for college, and gain experience. I leave for basic training June 6, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. It will be a blast, I'm sure. I'll be back in early August, and plan on taking flight lessons towards my Private Pilot's License.

I guess the only real distinguishing characteristic I have is the fact that I'm not going to stop until I get what I want. I recently finished *Red Storm Rising* by Tom Clancy. In it, there is a quote that really stood out to me. It reads something like; "There is no greater taskmaster than one's own self-expectations." It pretty well sums me up. My biggest fear is the fear of failure, and letting myself down—it makes me strive harder.

Now meet Hal through an introduction by instructor Jerry Hok:

Hal has grown up accustomed to working hard for what he gets. He did farm labor until he was 17, and now he pumps gas and does whatever else is needed at Strand Aviation in Kalispell. Hal's stated goals are simple: "... to learn as much as I can; to fly as much as I can; and to become as proficient a pilot as I can."



Hal Yeager

That's hard to beat in an aviation scholarship candidate. I should also mention that Hal is carrying a cumulative GPA of more than 3.7, and not by virtue of taking easy classes. Hal's transcript includes calculus, physics, and advanced placement courses; and last week he passed his private pilot written test by an easy margin. Of course, Hal's already soloed earlier this winter.

Thanks to Jerry and Chuck for continuing to "plant the seed" and encourage and educate students about the wonderful world of aerospace. Jerry also informed us that last year's scholarship recipient and this year's aviation awareness poster contest winner, Jackson Leddy, is now a fully-licensed pilot—at 16.

Congratulations to Dennis and Hal for their hard work and dedication.

Obstruction Hazard

By: Jeanne Lesnik
Safety & Education Bureau

A (1052' AGL) structure proposed to be constructed 6 NM SE of Great Falls (GTF) would pose a hazard to visual flight VFR traffic and has potential for interference with navigational aids; an FM Antenna (1123' AGL) 5.8 NM S of Malmstrom AFB, proposed to be constructed, would be on a VFR flyway and interfere with the traffic pattern for Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The Montana Aeronautics Division and the Montana Pilots Association wrote letters to the FAA to object to the proposed construction.

The FAA determined that the proposed construction of both structures would have a substantial adverse effect on the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft and determined the structures a hazard to air navigation.

Write a letter! Montana pilots might have a concern over the proposal to construct an FM Antenna (1023' AGL) 8/10 mile from the runway end at Sportsman Field in Ennis, a popular airstrip. The proposed antenna site is directly in the airport traffic pattern and is a safety hazard to any pilot in the Ennis area.

Please write a letter to: The Federal Aviation Administration, Northwest Mountain Region, System Management Branch, 1601 Lind Ave. SW, Renton, WA 98055-4056. Reference Subject #95-ANM-0318-OE.

Thank you for your support toward safe aviation. Your response will count.

Montana Pilots Survey

By: James R. Greil
Aviation Support Officer

The University of Montana communications study group consisting of Erika Dykstra, Sarah Shipp, Todd Smith, Nancy Trumbull and team leader Rebecca Roth have completed their Montana Pilot Survey Report. Many of you may have met Becky Roth handing out surveys at the 1995 Montana Aviation Conference in Kalispell and at Minuteman and Northstar Aviation in Missoula.

The study was in reference to the proposed changes to the FAA structure through recasting the FAA as an independent government corporation like the U.S. Postal Service. The issue of privatization would directly affect approximately 3500 Montana pilots. The objective of the study is to provide a working tool to represent Montana pilots' beliefs and opinions concerning the proposed changes. The survey was responded to by 155 pilots around the state and asked a wide variety of questions ranging from pilots attitudes towards the current and proposed FAA structure to aviators' political affiliations. The completed study yielded some interesting results.

Montana pilots surveyed were aware of the current proposals and most were overwhelmingly against the proposed changes to the FAA, only 19 respondents were in favor of changing the current system. The surveyed group's main concerns about the proposed changes were the increase of user fees to private pilots and the ongoing erosion of private pilots' rights. Also listed as concerns were changes in the level of safety and the loss of jobs, and 94 respondents remarked a decrease in quality would result. Of the polled group, 18 pilots may have summed up the general consensus when they remarked "Current system works, do not change it.".

The demographics of Montana pilots were also calculated and although the scale ranged widely, most pilots are between the ages of 45 and 64 with the largest percentage having flown more than 30 years with about half of the time listed as commercial and half as pleasure. Of the respondents 82% were male with only 18 females responding to the survey. Political affiliations were also polled with the vast majority of pilots (83) responding that they were Republicans. Twenty-eight pilots regarded themselves Independent and only 19 pilots thought of themselves as Democrats. Most Montana pilots are usually flying VFR and about half use flight following.

Many of the written comments on the survey were interesting and provided valuable insight into general attitudes and opinions. Some of the more common comments were as follows: "too much radio confusion," "too much favoritism of commercial airlines," "do not like the sound of government company," "GA will shoulder financial burden," "will decrease standards and efficiency," "bureaucracy would increase problems," and "too much government." One more comical comment was, "[don't do this to us], I already hate the Post Office."

The full report is at the Aeronautics Division and if you would like further information about this very detailed document, which was only given a glimpse here, contact Prof. Al Sillars at the University of Montana, in Missoula or contact the Division. Many thanks go out to the U of M research group for their work and dedication to this survey, a job well done.

Administrator's Column, *continued*

GPS Now At Full Operational Capability: The U.S. Air Force announced the 24th Block II satellite is now in orbit which means the constellation of 24 operational GPS satellites are operating in their assigned orbits. The system has demonstrated it can now meet or exceed the levels of service required of this dual military/civilian use national asset.

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Cessna's New Factory: Cessna Chairman Russ Meyer announced during their May 19th ground breaking ceremonies for their new plant in Independence, Kansas, they plan to have the new piston-engine aircraft factory open on July 4, 1996. Cessna will then begin manufacturing the C-172, C-182, and C-206 models. The new models will have Lycoming fuel injected engines with electronic ignition systems, shoulder harnesses for all occupants, lighted instrument displays, wing levelers, and state of the art avionics. Cessna is considering manufacturing other models such as the C-152 in a later production program.

Helena Family Fly-in and Flight Safety Expo

The 9th annual Family Fly-in and Flight Safety Expo will be held in Helena July 20–23, 1995, at the Helena Regional Airport. Make plans now to attend the 9th Annual Family Fly-in to be held in the Queen City of the Rockies.

1. GPS seminars and demonstrations; guest lectures; speakers and aviation events; flights for a small fee in balloons, helicopters and airplanes; social events and static displays.
2. Young Eagle Rides will be provided for ages 8-17 (free admission). The Young Eagles program is a mission of the Experimental Aircraft Association. The EAA members are dedicated to giving a new generation the chance to ride the skies. It is hoped this experience will spark a young person's curiosity and make them eager to learn more.
3. The Wings program is sponsored by the FAA and is a special opportunity for all pilots to gain proficiency. After the pilot has logged three hours of dual instruction under the program and has attended an FAA safety seminar, he/she will receive a set of wings. This also qualifies as a flight review.
4. The Pace Program is strictly a volunteer program where the FAA inspects the airworthiness of aircraft and gives a courtesy proficiency flight with an Aviation Safety Inspector. If an inspector notes deficiencies, then recommendations for corrective action will be made; but under no circumstances will any adverse action be taken. The entire thrust of the Pace Program is to help pilots enhance their safety and that of their passengers.
5. The Ace Program—an aviation program for high school students.

For more information, call Jim Cooney, FAA, at 449-5270, or Jeanne Lesnik, Montana Aeronautics, at 444-2506.

If you can volunteer two to three hours of your time, please contact Jeanne Lesnik at Montana Aeronautics (406) 444-2506.

New Weather Radar

Great Falls has commissioned a new weather radar for better dissemination of weather by the National Weather Service. The official kick-off for the new installation was June 2 with many notable officials present. The new radar is of the doppler type, commonly seen on the Weather Channel showing color intensities of thunderstorms. The radar measures not only airborne water vapor echos but also is tuned to relate to the operator the actual wind speed and direction within the echos. With this technology, imbedded thunderstorms are very easy to detect and intensity forecast. Information from the radar is directly sent and linked with the FSS in Great Falls for immediate dissemination to pilots and forecasters alike. Missoula has recently acquired and commissioned the same type of radar and it is currently in service.

RMC Aviators Place in National Competition

The Rocky Mountain College "Flying Bears" recently returned from the 1996 National Intercollegiate Flying Association competition in Greenville, MS, April 23–39. Denim Yarger of Circle, MT, and Rob Clemow of Wisdom, MT, won third place in the message drop flying event. Other team members were Brad Koch, team captain, Matt Miller, Jeff Kinyon, Kris Pierson, Ben Slinkard, Jodie Millard and Chad Hansen. The faculty advisor was Dave Kimball.

The competition includes four flying events that test pilot skills, and five ground events that cover a broad range of aeronautical knowledge. Twenty-three teams and over 230 students took part in the national competition. The Rocky team won second place in the regional competition last fall to earn a position in the national flight meet.

Rocky Mountain College will host the next regional flight competition in Billings, October 12–14. Everyone is welcome to observe the meet. Volunteers are needed to help judge the landing and navigation events. Contact Dave Kimball at 657-1060 for more information.

Thirty-two hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 37¢ each, for a total cost of $1,210. This includes $60 for production, $526 for postage and $624 for printing.

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